

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 2010 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, S. Krishnan, S. Rajagopal and D. Stillinger,

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2011 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC minutes from November 2, 2010 and Green Team & CTEC minutes December 7, 2010 were approved, motioned by S. Carroll and 2nd by L. Caprioglio, with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND JANUARY 2012.

Every first Tuesday except no meeting in July at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township municipal building. The remaining date is Jan 11, 2011. Jan 11 (meeting was cancelled due to snow), Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, July no meeting, Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6 in 2011 and Jan 10, 2012.

Reorganization of CTEC – S. Carroll motioned to nominate Dot Stillinger as Environmental Commission Chairperson, K. Abbott 2nd, with all in favor. S. Carroll motioned to nominate Kathy Abbott as Vice-Chairperson, P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:11-8:33)

Sustainable Jersey will be making some changes in the next few weeks. Green Team Advisory committee met 3 times in the last month and recommendation is to reach Silver status by September 2012, also reviewed actions and developed a suggested subcommittee structure. Volunteers including municipal and school officials are needed to work on subcommittees. CTEC reviewed other townships procedures on "how to recruit volunteers". S. Carroll motioned to proceed with the "Berkeley Heights model and press release format", 2nd by S. Krishnan., with all in favor. S. Carroll motioned to establish a meeting date to be determined in the near future, K. Abbott 2nd with all in favor.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NOTE. Site visit for the T-Mobile application at the Green Village firehouse property will be Saturday, Feb. 5 at 9 AM. CTEC has previously commented on this site in connection with the original Verizon application and decided there were no new issues.

NEW. East Park Builders. 1-10-11. Block 54, lot 2. Zone R-3 (1/2-acre residential), 35 Mountainview Rd. Application to Planning Board for subdivision of property into 2 lots, requesting C variance (hardship). Current lot is 32,373 sf, propose one lot of 16,421 sf and one lot of 15,953 sf. A half-acre is about 20,000 sf. Total impervious cover would be almost 1 1/2 times current, will remove 7 large trees. Slopes over 25 % - 1,180 sf will be disturbed but only 500 sf permitted. Slopes between 20-25% - 1,141 sf will be disturbed but only 293 sf permitted. Slopes between 15-20% - 2,824 sf will be disturbed but only 1,094 sf permitted. No wetlands or transition areas. A site visit is suggested before comments can be addressed.

NEW. Board of Education, School District of the Chathams. 1-6-11. Application to Planning Board for lights at Cougar Field. Planning Board briefly discussed, no comment at this time, maybe litigation issue.

PENDING. Application to Board of Adjustment, application complete on 7-22-10, 28 Ormont Road, Block 8, lot 4, Gunn. Steep slope, front & rear yard variances to construct a single family dwelling. Most recent hearing was on January 20, 2011. CTEC memo to Board of Adjustment was sent. Application has been scaled back slightly, drywell moved farther away from the rear property line, retaining wall is now in 3 sections and is only 10 feet from the house, 17 trees proposed to be removed

instead of 24, John Ruschke is requiring construction to be in 6 phases with inspection after each. At the January 20 hearing D. Stillinger suggested a conservation easement on a 25 foot wide strip along the rear property line and a manual for the manufactured treatment device proposed for the front yard (a trap for grit and debris.)

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. Application to Planning Board. Longview Road. April 26, 2010. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn concept plan for 8 lot subdivision on Longview Road.

PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Next Board of Adjustment hearing on February 9 at 7:30 PM. It would be helpful if a CTEC member could attend and ask why they decided to go with the costly remediation plan involving tree loss and slope disturbance instead of an Institutional Control which would be a conservation easement agreement with the NJDEP that would involve no physical disturbance on the site, only a discreet fence with a small sign and possibly an agreement to allow passive recreation. CTEC MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HEARING.

PENDING. Verizon Wireless. 11-16-10. Block 48.14 Lot 110 (the Gazebo lot on Southern Blvd.) Application to Board of Adjustment for use, setback and height variances to erect antennas on an existing PSE&G tower. NJDEP has granted a GP#2 (work on utility lines) for disturbance of 510 s.f. of wetlands near the rear of the parking lot to put a utility line underground, and there will be a non-staffed equipment shed that will be visited for maintenance once a month. Applicant has obtained all required documents from NJDEP and US Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2009 Township Forester John Linson commented, "If it (the equipment shed) looks like a disguised wireless equipment shelter, it will permanently diminish the aesthetic value of the park. If the building is redesigned to fit the park, few people will ever notice it." Suggest CTEC send a memo to Board of Adjustment suggesting careful shed design, monitoring of work to ensure wetlands are not disturbed beyond that allowed, submission of landscape plan for revegetation in area of disturbance with a provision of no use of herbicides in any future vegetation maintenance. CTEC WILL COMMENT WHEN THE APPLICATION IS DEEMED COMPLETE.

PENDING. General Permit application for expansion of pavement and buildings, 10-5-10, Metro PCS New York LLC, Block 48.16, Lot 117.27, 401-405 Southern Blvd. (DPW area.) Presumably for installation of cell antennas and infrastructure at the existing PSE&G transmission tower. Site previously inspected for another cell antenna application, no issues noted. Might be worth checking again. WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO A SITE VISIT BEFORE APPLICATION IS APPROVED.

CLOSED. Application to Board of Adjustment. Steve Lin & Laurie Huang, 27 Susan Drive, Block 20, Lot 19. Steep slope disturbance beyond what was allowed, request for variances. Down slope neighbors have been impacted by storm water. Board of Adjustment granted variance for as-built disturbance with condition that remediation be carried out by hand.

CLOSED. PSE&G. 1-28-2010. Application for wetlands GP #1 (maintenance and repair of existing features) for maintenance of natural gas distribution mains in ROWs in PSE&G's service area. Letter to NJDEP sent.

CLOSED. Goodman. 11-23-10. Block 14, Lot 61.01. 31 Long Hill Lane. LOI application. Letter to NJDEP sent.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio – Approved open space and land use element of the Master Plan. Board of Education, lights at Cougar Field briefly discussed, no comment at this time. Last meeting was cancelled.

Township Committee report. No report.

Open Space Committee report. (D. Stillinger) – looking into property located around Woodland Road – for purchase or to get property reserved.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington, K. Abbott. – worked on 2 projects – (1) Eco film & discussion on energy. Consisted of research material, tips and updates on new programs for presentation. This event was co-hosted with the boro. 30 people attended. Summary of events will be posted on website. Sustainable Jersey points will be received for this event. (2) Management of \$25,000 grant project, for rocket composter. The composter has arrived. There are many details involved with the installation of the composter.

Recycling Committee report P. Collington – Waiting on quotes from MUA. Boro is single stream, and is up and running with Wastewater Management. F. Esposito - Selected documents concerning pending land use projects to be added on township website.

Website Committee report. S. Krishnan - Working on updating website information for the last 2 months. Checking into private site.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- New and reappointed members please sign a Leadership form and return by email to Greg LaConte.
- Approved 2010 CTEC annual report and ok to present to the Township Committee.
- Discussion of draft CTEC 2011 budget. Budget must include \$1,375 for minutes secretary and about \$400 for ANJEC membership with workshop plan. CTEC members can be reimbursed for expenses - see Marge Gerba. S. Carroll motioned to accept the draft 2011 CTEC budget, P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor.
- Water usage monitoring and water meters plan in condominiums. R. Barrett, S. Hoag - Associate members.
- Business cards for CTEC members, received and distributed. F. Esposito.
- Commission member can speak as a resident at any meeting. When speak for the commission, this should be on background knowledge or discussions previously approved.
- Approved change of location of spring cleanup to CT property with NJCF conservation easement on Green Village Road just beyond Oak Knoll. Date will be Saturday April 16, parking at the ShopRite parking lot, to be requested. The property connects to Kirby and Platt, and Platt connects to Loantaka Park, so a cleanup would support any plans the Open Space Committee might have for a nature trail or greenway across Kirby, Open Space will be notified of this event. Reviewed draft flyer and made revisions for cleanup event.
- The \$20K EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program) from the State. Chatham Township submitted a grant application. Application should be reviewed by CTEC to see where retrofitting can be utilized within township buildings. D. Trivisano.
- Wellhead protection. At this time to apply for an ANJEC planning grant to develop an ordinance would be of little use for the Township. Review other townships ordinance plans. D. Stillinger.
- Possibility of applying for an ANJEC grant to develop a model conservation easement agreement. D. Stillinger, L. Caprioglio.
- Chatham Township conservation easement inventory data has been incorporated into the Morris County public GIS system.

ISSUES

Vegetation and herbicide management plan for utility rights-of-way. A watershed-wide plan sponsored by GSWA may be produced. The CTEC ROW Subcommittee (currently K. Abbott, D. Stillinger, and Phyllis Fast from Long Hill) are proposing to develop a plan for Chatham Township with the possibility of enlisting Long Hill and Chatham Borough as events unfold.

EVENTS

- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Next is Tuesday, March 1, 2011.
- Thursday, February 23, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Ave., Morristown.
- Saturday, March 5, Environmental Commissioner Training, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Sarah Bailey Senior & Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield (Union County). Anjec.org for other dates and locations. Free for CTEC members.
- Saturday, March 19, 2011. Annual New Jersey Conservation Foundation Rally. NJConservation.org.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notice of upcoming workshops from ANJEC. Flyers & newsletters from ESRI.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary